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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/873,298	06/05/2001	Joseph P. Steiner	06843.0038	6727

22852 7590 04/16/2004

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER  
LLP  
1300 I STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER
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KIM, VICKIE Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1614

25

DATE MAILED: 04/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/873,298

6/5/2001

Steiner et al

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EXAMINER

Vickie Kim

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

1. All claims are allowable. However, due to a potential interference, ex parte prosecution is SUSPENDED FOR A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS from the date of this letter. Upon expiration of the period of suspension, applicant should make an inquiry as to the status of the application.

VICKIE KIM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Art Unit 1614

BRUCE KISLUK, DIRECTOR  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600

Art Unit: 1614

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

#25/F 10  
4/6/04

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Strauss, William on 04/02/2004.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- a. Cancel claims 2-7, 12-15, 25-29, 33-37 and 43.

***Information Disclosure Statement(IDS)***

The information disclosure statement (IDS) is submitted on Nov. 19, 2001; January 03 2002; April 22, 2002; and Nov. 04, 2002. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner. Please refer to applicants' copy of the 1449 submitted herewith.

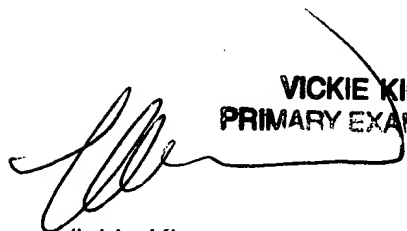
***Conclusion***

1. All the pending claims 1, 11, 41-42, 44-45 and 49 are allowed.
2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vickie Kim whose telephone number is 571-272-0579. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday.

Art Unit: 1614

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Low be reached on 571-272-0953. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**VICKIE KIM**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Vickie Kim  
April 6, 2004  
Primary Patent examiner  
Art 1614



## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

OMB NO. 0651-0011

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Atty. Docket No.	08647.0002	Serial No.	09/873,298
Applicant	Joseph P. STEINER et al.		
Filing Date	June 5, 2001	Group:	1627

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Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
JP	3,810,884	05/14/1974	Gold	260	239	
	3,917,840	11/04/1975	Gold	424	267	
	4,668,798	05/26/1987	Kim	548	533	
	5,002,963	03/26/1991	De Luca et al.	514	419	
	5,128,483	07/07/1992	Trybulski et al.	548	531	
	5,147,877	09/15/1992	Goulet	514	291	
	5,192,773	03/09/1993	Armistead et al.	514	315	
	5,227,467	07/13/1993	Durette et al.	530	321	
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	2 247 456 A	03/04/1992	United Kingdom			
	DE 40 15 255 A1	11/14/1991	Germany			No, Canadian Counterpart (English)
	DE 44 25 950 A1	01/25/1996	Germany			No, English Abstract
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	WO 92/04370	03/19/1992	WIPO			
	WO 92/18478	10/29/1992	WIPO			
	WO 92/19593	11/12/1992	WIPO			
	WO 92/19745	11/12/1992	WIPO			
	WO 92/21313	12/10/1992	WIPO			



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	WO 93/25546	12/23/1993	WIPO			
	WO 94/07858	04/14/1994	WIPO			
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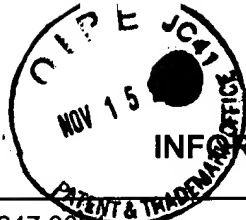


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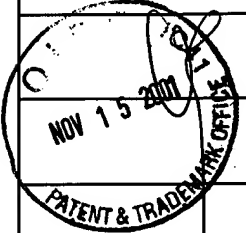
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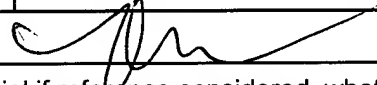
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Applicant Joseph P. STEINER et al.	
Filing Date June 5, 2001	Group: 1627

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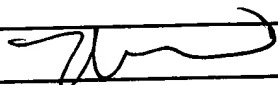
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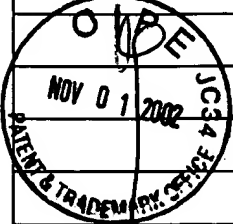
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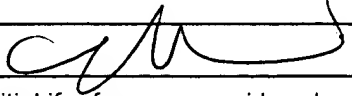
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